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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/846,760	05/01/2001	Ryota Hirose	PW 024 5678 H7518US	5013

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EXAMINER

AHMED, SALMAN

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2666

DATE MAILED: 09/20/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/846,760

Applicant(s)

HIROSE ET AL.

Examiner

Salman Ahmed

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 May 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 01 May 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

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DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. Claims 4, 15, 18 and 21 are objected to because of the following informalities:

Claim 4, lines 22 and 23 the words "dada" should be changed to --data--.

Such problem exists in claims 15, 18 and 21 as well.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

3. The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) and the Intellectual Property and High Technology Technical Amendments Act of 2002 do not apply when the reference is a U.S. patent resulting directly or indirectly from an international application filed before November 29, 2000. Therefore, the prior art date of the reference is determined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

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4. Claim 1, 2, 4, 5, 11, 12, 14, 15, 17, 18, 20 and 21 are rejected under 35

U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Wynn (US PAT 6629137), hereinafter referred to as Wynn.

In regards to claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 11, 12, 14, 15, 17, 18, 20 and 21, Wynn teaches a plurality of node devices in a computer network system including a device connectable to a network for use in directing data using a method and means (column 2 lines 26-29, a local network that includes one or more hosts and a network interface device), comprising: an interface (column 5, lines 54-58, the network interface devices 26a,b may provide address translation at the respective interfaces of the local network 22 with the CATV and DSL networks 24, 27 so that the local network 22 need not be reconfigured through the elimination of existing local addresses and/or the addition of new external network addresses to communicate with the CATV and DSL networks) that is provided for interfacing with the network, and that is allocated with a plurality of physical addresses registered for physically discriminating from other devices; and a processor (column 5, line 62, a processor) that executes a receiving process (figure 3 and column 8 line 34, address translation module 66) and a transmitting process (figure 3 and column 8 line 39, address translation module 66) of data through the interface.

The receiving process comprises the steps of: receiving data having a physical address indicating a destination of the data; comparing the physical address of the received data with the registered physical addresses; completing the receiving process when the physical address of the received data matches with one of the registered physical

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addresses; and otherwise canceling the receiving process when the physical address of the received data matches with none of the registered physical addresses is anticipated by the external address if being (column 3 lines 29-34) an Internet Protocol (IP) address, then, preferably, the external address request contains the media access control (MAC) address of the network interface device and an IP address of all zeros. Wynn further teaches (column 8 lines 31-36) information being sent from the external network (i.e., the CATV network 24) to a host using the external address associated with the host as a destination address. The address translation module 66 may translate the external address used as the destination address for the host into the local address for the host in real-time at block 94 of figure 3. The transmitting process comprises the steps of: detecting a destination of data to be transmitted; selecting one of the registered physical addresses according to the detected destination of the data to be transmitted; and attaching the selected physical address to the data is anticipated by (column 8 lines 36-42) information being sent from a learned host to the external network using the local address associated with that host as the source address. The address translation module 66 may translate the local address used as the source address by the host into the corresponding network address for the host in real-time at block 96 of figure 3.

In regards to claim 4, 12, 15, 18 and 21 Wynn teaches a network device having means for using a method and comprising a port (column 2 line 3) network port number connectable to a network, a storage section (figure 2 element 54) that stores a plurality

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of physical addresses registered for physically discriminating from other network devices and a controller (figure 2 element 52) section that controls the receiver section and the transmitter section.

In regards to claim 11, selecting the second physical address when the destination of the data to be transmitted is given as a private IP address which indicates another node device involved in the computer network system is anticipated by (column 3 lines 14-19) a message may be asynchronously received from a host that contains that host's local address or a request that the hosts respond with their respective local addresses may be broadcast on the local network.

In regards to claim 5, 12 and 18 the controller section designating the first physical address when the desired destination of the data to be transmitted is given as a global IP address, and otherwise designates the second physical address when the designated destination of the data to be transmitted is given as a private IP address which indicates another node device involved in the computer network system is anticipated by figure 3 elements 52, 62, 64 and 66 and column 3 lines 14-19.

In regards to claim 17 and 18 Wynn teaches (column 4 lines 41-58) that the invention may take the form of a computer program product on a computer-usable or computer-readable storage medium having computer-usable or computer-readable program code embodied in the medium for use by or in connection with an instruction execution

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system. In the context of this document, a computer-usable or computer-readable medium may be any medium that can contain, store, communicate, propagate, or transport the program for use by or in connection with the instruction execution system, apparatus, or device.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

7. Claims 3, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 13, 16, 19 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wynn and in view of Residential Broadband, Second Edition

By George Abe Publisher: Cisco Press Pub Date: December 23, 1999 ISBN: 1-57870-177-5, hereinafter referred to as Abe.

In regards to claims 3, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 13, 16, 19 and 22 Wynn teaches using network interface device for network connection using address translation methods between local LAN and internet as described in the rejections of claims 1 and 4 above.

In regards to claims 3, 6 and 10 Wynn does not explicitly teach the device functioning as a DHCP client in the Internet domain so that the DHCP client is allocated a global IP address from another DHCP server of the Internet domain, and also functioning as a DHCP server in the local area network domain so that the DHCP server allocates a private IP address to another HCP client in the local area network domain. Wherein the processor uses the first physical address for exchanging data with said another DHCP server of the Internet domain, and uses the second physical address for exchanging data with another DHCP client of the local area network domain. In regards to claims 7, 8, 9, 13, 16, 19 and 22 Wynn does not explicitly teach a network device being connectable to a cable modem having a CATV port and a LAN port, the network device comprising: a network interface that is connected to the LAN port of the cable modem.

In regards to claims 3, 6 and 10 Abe teaches (Chapter 3. Cable TV Networks section: Data Services over Cable) the modem obtains an address by using the *Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol (DHCP)*. DHCP is the standard Internet protocol for dynamic

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assignment of IP addresses. When a subscriber requires an address, the cable modem launches a particular type of broadcast packet, called a DHCP Discover, onto the return path. The CMTS router at the head end receives the DHCP Discover and authenticates the cable modem. It then returns the IP address of the server to the cable modem, and the cable modem sends a DHCP request to the DHCP server. The DHCP server returns an IP address to the router, which caches it and relays the information to the subscriber cable modem. Wynn teaches (Chapter 7. Home Networks section: Residential Gateway) a more user-friendly way to enable address acquisition for the home TE is to have the RG operate the Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol (DHCP) server function. With the RG acting as a DHCP Server, it can supply IP addresses to multiple home computers from a pool of addresses provided to it by the carrier. In regards to claims 7, 8, 9, 13, 16, 19 and 22 Abe teaches (Figure 7-5. Residential Gateway Interfaces and Figure 7-2. Home Network Schematic Network Termination (NT)) a network device (RG) being connectable to a cable modem having a CATV port and a LAN port and a plurality of network devices being connectable to the LAN port of the cable modem, the network device comprising: a network interface that is connected to the LAN port of the cable modem.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Wynn's teaching by incorporating Abe's teaching of DHCP methodology and connection architecture. The motivation is that (As suggested by Abe Chapter 7. Home Networks section: Residential Gateway) it is a more user-

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friendly way to enable address acquisition. It would be (As suggested by Abe Chapter 3. Cable TV Networks section: Data Services over Cable) customer-unfriendly and would create security problems if the customer were to configure his own IP address. In regards to claims 7, 8, 9, 13, 16, 19 and 22 (As suggested by Abe Chapter 7. Home Networks section: Topology alternatives) such configuration if used as bus provides economic use of wiring, requires only a single network connection per device, and is well suited to the broadcasting case. Such configuration if used as star isolates traffic per device and therefore can guarantee bit rate per device. This is good for video and for problem isolation. Furthermore, a malfunctioning device would not adversely affect other terminal equipment.

8. Prior arts pertinent to the application but not used in office action:

- US 6028848 A USPAT Apparatus and methods for use therein for an ISDN LAN modem utilizing internal DNS and DHCP servers for transparent translation of local host names to IP addresses Bhatia; Rajiv et al.
- US 6434134 B1 USPAT Dynamic address assignment for wireless devices accessing packet-based wired networks La Porta; Thomas F. et al.
- US 6195705 B1 USPAT Mobile IP mobility agent standby protocol Leung; Kent K.

- US 6249523 B1 USPAT Router for which a logical network address which is not unique to the gateway address in default routing table entries Hrastar; Scott E. et al.
- US 5805684 A USPAT Communication terminal device Hirose; Ryota et al.
- US 6608830 B1 USPAT Router Hirano; Hisashi et al.

Conclusion

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Salman Ahmed whose telephone number is (571)272-8307. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 am - 5:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Seema Rao can be reached on (571)272-3174. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Salman Ahmed

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Examiner
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SA

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